

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/P: WJGEHRON; EUR/CE:JPBECKER:RF

APPROVED BY EUR: MR. STABLER

EUR/CE:NCLEDSKY

EUR/P - MR. SAVAGE

L/EUR:DHSMALL

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TO USMISSION BERLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GE

SUBJECT: BINDER STORY ON US ENVOY TO GDR

1. DAVID BINDER STORY IN NY TIMES APRIL 17 REPORTS THAT PRESIDENT IS CONSIDERING NOMINATION OF JOHN SHERMAN COOPER AS FIRST US AMBASSADOR TO GDR; THAT US ACCORDED DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO GDR BY CONCLUDING QA AND US ADMIN TEAM LAST MONTH SAW PROMISING BUILDINGS BUT THESE WILL REQUIRE CONSIDERABLE RENOVATION.

2. DEPARTMENT HAS DRAWN ON FOLLOWING GUIDANCE IN REPLYING TO LIMITED NUMBER OF PRESS INQUIRIES PROMPTED BY BINDER STORY. ACTION ADEES SHOULD USE AS NEEDED.

3. Q: CAN YOU CONFIRM REPORTS THAT JOHN SHERMAN COOPER IS BEING CONSIDERED AS THE U.S. AMBASSADOR TO THE GDR?

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A: NO. ON THAT MATTER I WOULD REFER YOU TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

4. Q. IS THE UNITED STATES PREPARED TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE GDR IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

A. DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WILL BE ESTABLISHED ONLY UPON MUTUAL AGREEMENT FOLLOWING FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WE EXPECT WILL BE HELD IN WASHINGTON. NO DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR THOSE NEGOTIATIONS, AND NONE WILL BE SET UNTIL ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN AMERICAN EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN HAVE BEEN SATISFACTORILY COMPLETED.

5. Q. WHAT WOULD BE TAKEN UP IN THE FORMAL NEGOTIATIONS?

A. BROADLY SPEAKING, WHAT WE ARE SEEKING THROUGH THESE NEGOTIATIONS IS AN AGREEMENT WHICH WILL CREATE THE BASIS FOR A PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP. WE WILL WISH TO COME TO AN UNDERSTANDING CONCERNING THE MUTUAL FUNCTIONING OF OUR MISSIONS AND CONSULAR SERVICES AND RELATED QUESTIONS.

6. Q. WHAT ABOUT THE MATTER OF CLAIMS?

A. THIS IS AN IMPORTANT QUESTION, WHICH WE INTEND TO RAISE AND OBTAIN A FIRM COMMITMENT FOR LATER SUBSTANTIVE NEGOTIATIONS.

7. Q. DOES THE UNITED STATES TAKE THE POSITION THAT IT ACCORDED THE GDR DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION BY CONCLUDING THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT?

A. WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED EXISTENCE OF THE GDR AS A STATE--ALTHOUGH THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WAS NOT THE RESULT OF THE SIGNING OF THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT--AND INDEED HAVE SPONSORED ITS ADMISSION TO THE UN LAST SEPTEMBER ALONG WITH THE FRG. AS I HAVE ALREADY NOTED, WE HAVE NOT ESTABLISHED DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

8. Q. WHERE DO WE STAND ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE ARRANGEMENTS? HAVE WE NOW FOUND SOME PROMISING PROSPECTS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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TERMS OF PROPERTY?

A. A GROUP OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERTS MADE A SECOND VISIT LAST MARCH (THE FIRST VISIT TOOK PLACE IN AUGUST 1973) TO INSPECT FACILITIES IN EAST BERLIN WHICH MIGHT BE SUITABLE FOR A U.S. CHANCERY AND HOUSING FOR AMERICAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL. THEY FOUND SOME PROMISING BUILDINGS, BUT THESE WOULD NEED CONSIDERABLE

RENOVATION. (LAST SEPTEMBER A GDR TEAM VISITED WASHINGTON TO LOOK OVER PROPERTIES.)

9. Q. HAS THE GDR LOCATED ANY PROPERTY HERE?

A. THEY ARE DEALING THROUGH REAL ESTATE REPRESENTATIVES HERE. AS OF THIS TIME WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THEY HAVE FOUND SOMETHING OR NOT.

10. Q. WHAT CONTACTS HAVE THERE BEEN BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE GDR OTHER THAN THE VISITS OF RESPECTIVE ADMINISTRATIVE TEAMS?

A. TWO MEMBERS OF THE GDR'S UN MISSION MET WITH THEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY STOESSEL LAST AUGUST IN WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS PROCEDURES FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND GDR. (THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN OCCASIONAL TELEPHONE CONTACTS WITH THE GDR REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK CONCERNING ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS.) KISSINGER

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